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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			KASSA, HILINA S	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/648,794	ENDO, MASAKATSU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hilina S. Kassa	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/23/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings submitted on 06/23/2004 have been acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
In line 9, “at” is repeated twice.
3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
On page 23, line 2, “is or” does not give a clear meaning to the concept of the claim language.
4. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:
In line 9, “at” is repeated twice.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fredlund et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0146997 A1) and Wheeler et al. (US

Publication Number 2003/0095197 A1) further in view of Housel (US Patent Number 7,095,526 B1).

(1) regarding claim 1:

As shown in figure 1 Fredlund et al. disclose a printing system comprising one or more image data creation apparatuses creating image data (10, figure 1) and one or more printers carrying out printing based on at least a portion of the image data acquired from at least one of the image data creation apparatus or apparatuses (24, figure 1), a printing system characterized in that it comprises:

one or more storage means for storing at least a portion of the image data (14, figure 1, paragraph 38, lines 10-14; paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the portion of the image gets acquired from a memory card);

one or more region specification means for specifying one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place (paragraph 39, lines 1-4; note that user could order to crop image);

one or more image acquisition means for acquiring at least a portion of the image data stored at at least one of the storage means (paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the image gets acquired from the memory card);

one or more printing means for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images (paragraph 50, lines 1-3; note that the viewing member is a printer which is adapted to produce a hardcopy print, paragraph 41, lines 6-8).

Fedlund et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more cutting means for cutting one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the region or regions specified by at least one of the region specification means;

However, Wheeler et al. teach one or more cutting means for cutting one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the region or regions specified by at least one of the region specification means (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that the portion of the image frame gets cropped out).

Fedlund et al. and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a cutting frame in order to cut an image data in the appropriate region of specification. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fedlund et al. with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Fredlund et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more image processing means for, based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions, carrying out prescribed processing on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

However, Housel discloses one or more image processing means for (26, figure 1), based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions (column 4, lines 25-31; note that the aspect ratio or the dimension of the paper gets specified), carrying out prescribed processing on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 36-51; note that the image gets shifted to the appropriate horizontal and vertical direction in order to acquire printing without a margin or "full bleed" printing).

Fedlund et al. and Housel are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a processing means in order to fit the image with respect to the

media sheet to acquire no margin printing. This is necessary to accomplish full bleed printing as desired.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to obtain high quality printing (column 2, lines 25-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fedlund et al. with Housel to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

(2) regarding claim 9:

As shown in figure 1 Fredlund et al. disclose an image data creation apparatus creating image data for printing at one or more printers (24, figure 1), the image data creation apparatus being characterized in that it comprises:

one or more storage means for storing at least a portion of the image data (14, figure 1, paragraph 38, lines 10-14; paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the portion of the image gets acquired from a memory card);

one or more region specification means for specifying one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place (paragraph 39, lines 1-4; note that user could order to crop image).

Fredlund et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more print request means for, based on one or more aspect ratios of at

least one of the specified region or regions (column 4, lines 25-31; note that the aspect ratio or the dimension of the paper gets specified), requesting that at least one of the printer or printers carry out printing so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 36-51; note that the image gets shifted to the appropriate horizontal and vertical direction in order to acquire printing without a margin or "full bleed" printing).

Fedlund et al. and Housel are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a print request means in order to fit the image with respect to the media sheet to acquire no margin printing. This is necessary to accomplish full bleed printing as desired.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to obtain high quality printing (column 2, lines 25-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fedlund et al. with Housel to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

7. Claims 2-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Housel (US Patent Number 7,095,526 B1) and Wheeler et al. (US Publication

Number 2003/0095197 A1) and further in view of Fredlund et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0146997 A1).

(1) regarding claim 2:

As shown in figure 1-3b Housel discloses a printing method characterized in that it comprises:

one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions (column 4, lines 25-31; note that the aspect ratio or the dimension of the paper gets specified), prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 36-51; note that the image gets shifted to the appropriate horizontal and vertical direction in order to acquire printing without a margin or "full bleed" printing).

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more steps in which one or more subsets is or are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions;

However, Wheeler et al. teach one or more steps in which one or more subsets is or are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that the portion of the image frame gets cropped out).

Housel and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a cutting frame in order to cut an image data in the appropriate region of specification. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored; one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place is or are specified; one or more steps in which at least a portion of the stored image data is acquired; and one or

more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed.

However, Fredlund et al. discloses one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored (14, figure 1, paragraph 38, lines 10-14; paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the portion of the image gets acquired from a memory card); one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place is or are specified (paragraph 39, lines 1-4; note that user could order to crop image); one or more steps in which at least a portion of the stored image data is acquired (paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the image gets acquired from the memory card); one or more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed (paragraph 50, lines 1-3; note that the viewing member is a printer which is adapted to produce a hardcopy print, paragraph 41, lines 6-8).

Housel and Fedlund et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a storage means to store the image data and a specification means in order to specify the regions for cropping and a printing means in order to print the modified image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality, efficiency and assessment of the output image (paragraph 23, lines 5-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Fedlund et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

(2) regarding claim 3:

Housel further discloses, a printing method according to claim 2 wherein:

at least one of the step or steps in which one or more subsets is or are cut from at least a portion of the image data (column 44-54; note that if the portion of image data gets trimmed in order to fit the printing media) is such that portion or portions extending beyond one or more edges of at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper is or are also taken into consideration in establishing one or more cutting frames larger than at least one of the specified locus or loci (column 4, lines 48-66; note that if the image and the print media are not fit, a message is displayed with the instruction for trimming on four sides of the paper), at least a portion of the image data being cut therewith so as to cause no margin to be formed at least horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 4, line 66-column 5, line 1; column 5, lines 17-26; note that after the appropriate trim, the printer gets enabled to print "full bleed" i.e. without a margin).

(3) regarding claim 4:

Housel further discloses, a printing method according to claim 3 wherein:

at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced and/or rotated (column 5, lines 36-51; note that image gets rotated and printed according to the shift in the horizontal and vertical directions) based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions and one or more print layouts (column 7, line 40-67; note that based up on the dimensions of the media, the image and the layout setting, trimming instruction get generated).

(4) regarding claim 5:

Housel further discloses a printing method according to claim 4 wherein:

at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that, in the event that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is rotated (column 5, lines 36-51; note that image gets rotated and printed according to the shift in the horizontal and vertical directions), at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is rotated so as to cause one or more orientations of one or more edges in one or more long directions of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified

region or regions to match one or more orientations of one or more edges in one or more long directions of one or more print regions established at at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, line 65-column 6, line 8; note that the image is rotated in order to fit the appropriate media and trimming procedure occurs when the according to the shifted size).

(5) regarding claim 6:

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that, in the event that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced, enlargement and/or reduction is carried out such that at least one of the aspect ratio or ratios of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is preserved.

However, Wheeler et al. teach at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that a portion of the image is cropped and analyzed), in the event that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced (paragraph 27, lines 13-17; note that the portion of the image gets enlarged), enlargement and/or reduction is carried out such that at least one of the aspect ratio or

ratios of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is preserved (paragraph 27, lines 3-17; note that the enlargement gets carried out based on the dimensions of the image i.e. 4x6 and 8x10 while retaining the standard print size).

Housel and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have enlargement and/or reduction carried out such that at least one of the aspect ratio or ratios of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is preserved. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

(6) regarding claim 7:

Housel further discloses a printing method according to claim 5 wherein: at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that (column 5, line 65-column 6,

line 6; note that the step of processing the image to fit the media is performed), in the event that it is determined that it is possible to achieve borderless printing with no margin on any of the four edges and with distortion within one or more preestablished allowed ranges (column 6, lines 6-11; note that four sides of the image gets trimmed in order to acquire borderless printing).

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced so as to be within at least one of the allowed range or ranges.

However, Wheeler et al. disclose at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced so as to be within at least one of the allowed range or ranges (paragraph 27, lines 13-17; note that the portion of the image gets enlarged).

Housel and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced so as to be within at least one of the allowed range or ranges. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

(7) regarding claim 8:

Housel further discloses a printing method according to claim 6 further comprising: one or more report means for reporting to one or more users that one or more margins may be produced horizontally and/or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 26-30; note that in step 112, before proceeding to trimming the image either horizontally or vertically, user gets notified by using user interface 21).

(8) regarding claim 10:

Housel further discloses a printer characterized in that it comprises: one or more image processing means for (26, figure 1), based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions (column 4, lines 25-31; note that the aspect ratio or the dimension of the paper gets specified), carrying out prescribed processing on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of

the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 36-51; note that the image gets shifted to the appropriate horizontal and vertical direction in order to acquire printing without a margin or "full bleed" printing).

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more cutting means for cutting one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on one or more regions at which cropped printing should take place;

However, Wheeler et al. teach one or more cutting means for cutting one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on one or more regions at which cropped printing should take place (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that the portion of the image frame gets cropped out).

Housel and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a cutting frame in order to cut an image data in the appropriate region of specification. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more means for acquiring image data; and one or more printing means for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images.

However, Fredlund et al. discloses one or more means for acquiring image data (paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the image gets acquired from the memory card); and one or more printing means for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images (paragraph 50, lines 1-3; note that the viewing member is a printer which is adapted to produce a hardcopy print, paragraph 41, lines 6-8).

Housel and Fedlund et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an acquiring means and a printing means in order to print the modified image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality, efficiency and assessment of the output image (paragraph 23, lines 5-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Fedlund et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

(9) regarding claim 11:

Housel further discloses a printer according to claim 10 further comprising: one or more report means for reporting to one or more users that one or more margins may be produced horizontally and/or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper (column 5, lines 26-30; note that in step 112, before proceeding to trimming the image either horizontally or vertically, user gets notified by using user interface 21).

(10) regarding claim 12:

Housel discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching one or more region specification means for specifying one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place.

However, Wheeler et al. teach one or more region specification means for specifying one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that the portion of the image frame gets cropped out).

Housel and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have specification means for specifying one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Housel with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satake et al. (US Publication Number 2001/0052997 A1) and Wheeler et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0095197 A1) and further in view of Fredlund et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0146997 A1).

(1) regarding claim 13:

As shown in figures 1-4 Satake et al. disclose a printing method for carrying out borderless printing of one or more subsets of image data on roll paper (paragraph 7, lines 1-4), the printing method being characterized in that it comprises:

one or more steps in which, based on one or more width dimensions of the roll paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions (paragraph 6, lines 7-12; note that the dimensions of the roll paper is specified), prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause one edge of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions to more or less match at least one of the width dimension or dimensions of the roll paper (paragraph 7, lines 1-7; note that the width dimension are specified in the roll paper).

Satake et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more steps in which one or more subsets is or are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions;

However, Wheeler et al. teach one or more steps in which one or more subsets is or are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions (paragraph 27, lines 8-13; note that the portion of the image frame gets cropped out).

Satake et al. and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a cutting frame in order to cut an image data in the appropriate region of specification. This is because, it would be efficient for one to thoroughly analyze and modify the image data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality and efficiency of printing (column 33, lines 1-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Satake et al. with Wheeler et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

Satake et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for teaching: one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored; one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place is or are specified; one or more steps in which at least a portion of the stored image data is acquired; and one or more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed.

However, Fredlund et al. discloses one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored (14, figure 1, paragraph 38, lines 10-14; paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the portion of the image gets acquired from a memory card); one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place is or are specified (paragraph 39, lines 1-4; note that user could order to crop image); one or more steps in which at

least a portion of the stored image data is acquired (paragraph 45, lines 11-13; note that the image gets acquired from the memory card); one or more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed (paragraph 50, lines 1-3; note that the viewing member is a printer which is adapted to produce a hardcopy print, paragraph 41, lines 6-8).

Satake et al. and Fedlund et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a storage means to store the image data and a specification means in order to specify the regions for cropping and a printing means in order to print the modified image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to improve the quality, efficiency and assessment of the output image (paragraph 23, lines 5-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Satake et al. with Fedlund et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yokonuma et al. (US Patent Number 5,805,206) disclose a film image processing apparatus that is capable of displaying a correct screen image at all times by taking into consideration aspect ratios of a print and the monitor screen is provided.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb could be reached at (571) 272- 7406.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Hilina Kassa

August 02, 2007



TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

